

## Yiriwaa report 2017

### 1. Introduction

In 2017 the Board of the Yiriwaa Foundation made some structural changes:

- \* new students had to be in grade 7 and above
- \* we don't take individual students anymore, but go to work with schools
- \* we bring the financial administration back from the coordinators to the Gambian board
- \* children at the lower basic level who are in need of basic things like shoes, pens, books uniform, can apply for support. But they we don't mark them as Yiriwaa students.

In this report we give the overview of the Yiriwaa students, the financial overview and the activities we undertook.

### 2. The Yiriwaa students 2017

In January 2011 we started with 15 students and after growing in 2013 to 102, Yiriwaa give support to 99 Gambian students at 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2014. At the end of December 2016 we count 96 Yiriwaa students. At the end of 2017 we had 81 students in Yiriwaa Foundation. That is less than possible, because some students were graduated and we decided to wait with new applications until the new application policy is formed.

Lower Basic School grade 1-6 : 22 students: 14 boys, 8 girls  
Upper Basic School grade 7-9 : 30 students: 14 boys, 16 girls  
Senior Secondary School grade 10-12: 27students, 19 boys, 8 girls  
Higher education : 2 student, 1 boy, 1 girl

Boys, girls and region of The Gambia

	West	Central	East
<b>Total</b>	29	31	21
<b>Boy</b>	17	16	15
<b>Girl</b>	12	15	6

### 3. Financial overview

The balance at 31-12-2016 was € 10.852  
Expenses made in 2017 € 6.149  
**Balance at 31-12-2017 € 4.703**

#### Expenses 2017

	west	central	east	Total
School- and exam fees, school fund, book bills	1446	582	334	2362
Schoolmaterials, studyclasses	514	541	259	1314
Transportcosts students	432			432
Yiriwaa groupactivities				883
Emergency costs		128		128
Supervising committee				1030
<b>Total</b>	<b>2392</b>	<b>1251</b>	<b>593</b>	<b>6149</b>

#### **4. Looking back and forward:**

##### **Grade 12 students:**

###### Looking back:

The results of the grade 12 students are improving. Some of them can have a scholarship for further education, like University, College or higher institutions. It is important that the student undertake action by her or himself: don't sit and wait until somebody is doing that for them.

###### Looking forward:

Now more Yiriwaa students are graduated with good results, more of them like to continue to tertiary education level. They had to do a special application and the Dutch board is taken the decisions about that. We had to make a policy about how many of them will suits in the annual budget.

##### **Coordinators:**

Looking back : In 2015 we decided to reorganize the Gambian organization of the Yiriwaa Foundation and to give more responsibilities to the coordinators. In 2017 we discovered that not every coordinator can manage the money on a proper way. The Dutch and Gambian board decides to send one of the coordinators out of his position because he misuses the Yiriwaa money. Instead of paying school bills, he use the Yiriwaa money for his personal use. The Gambian board did a punctual investigation and discussed that with that coordinator. He signed an agreement that he will pay back the missing money in 3 years time. Another coordinator took over his position in the area until we succeed to find another coordinator.

In the same time we took back the responsibility of the administration from all the coordinators. We realize that the skills they need to do the financial administration are not high enough to take that responsibility. We also changed our policy for new applications: to work more with some selected schools than with individual students.

###### Looking forward:

A yearly workshop with the coordinators is a good investment. Step by step we see that the coordinators are growing in their position. We need to support that the coordinators had to be more active in the beginning of the academic year so all the students have the learning materials on time.

##### **Gambian organization of the Yiriwaa Foundation:**

Looking back: Every year we are learning about what is working well and what needs more attention. Because the case of the missing money, it is good to look to other ways of organize the Foundation. Also we see that we had to put more attention at the side of the Board in the selection of the students. We start to change the policy: in every Yiriwaa Region (except Kombo North) we made a selection of Upper Basic and Senior Secondary schools with who Yiriwaa like to work.

###### Looking forward:

We had to put more attention to create a good relationship with the schools.

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